

SENATE BILL 1367

By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
Chapter 11, relative to patient notification.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 3 of this act as new part 19.

SECTION 2. For the purposes this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "medical imaging" means the production of visual representations of body parts, tissues, or organs for use in clinical diagnosis. For the purposes of this act "medical imaging" includes x-ray methods, magnetic resonance imaging, single-photon-emission and positron-emission tomography, and ultrasound.

SECTION 3.

(a) Each health care provider who provides a scheduled medical imaging procedure to a patient shall give notice of the expected costs of such procedure and any penalty that may be imposed if the patient reschedules or fails to attend such procedure. The notice of total costs and any penalty shall be provided to the patient at least forty-eight (48) hours before the procedure. The notice may include information that third party reimbursement for the procedure may be available to the patient. The notice shall state plainly and conspicuously that the patient will likely be responsible for any penalty imposed.

(b) The patient shall sign the notification required by this section and a copy of such signed notification shall be retained by the health care provider. The notification must be signed before the procedure is conducted.

(c) No health care provider shall impose any penalty or fee upon a patient for rescheduling or failing to attend a medical imaging procedure without a copy of a written notification signed by such patient in accordance with the provisions of this section.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.